

**WAUKESHA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER  
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2010  
MINUTES**

**Present:**

Troy Norman (Goodwill)  
Michael DeMares (WCDHHS)  
Mary Madden (NAMI)  
Linda Cole (Friendships)  
Dennis Farrell – (WCHHS Board)  
Joan Sternweis (MHC - DT)  
Diane Begos (MHC - CCS)

Corrine Gresen (WMH)  
Lisa McLean (MHA)

**Guests:**

Erin Hardy (MHC-DT)  
Beth Hischke (WCDHHS)  
Cathy Warmington, Mediation & Restorative Justice Center

**Excused:**

Sandra Hack (DHHS)  
James Hanover (Div. of Voc. Rehab.)  
Misty Barnhill (Friendships)  
Marybeth Vander Male (HIL)  
Maura McMahon (Public Defender Office)  
Colleen Gonzalez (WCTC)

The meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m. by Troy Norman. Introductions were made.

**Educational Segment:**

Mary Madden introduced Cathy Warmington, Director of Mediation and Restorative Justice Center, a program of WI Community Services.

Cathy Warmington stated Mediation and Restorative Justice Center has been around since 1982 and offer mediation to parties not getting along. People are brought together to discuss their issues for resolution assistance. Cathy W. handed out the brochures for "What is Mediation" and "Landlord/Tenant", which explained cases they handle. A sliding fee scale is used so those unable or less able to pay may utilize their services. Funding is available for low income. The Mediation process begins with a call to explain the difficulties. Names are taken and they handle the intake on both sides. After the parties agree to meet in person, an appointment is made with the mediator. Everyone is required to speak freely and comfortably, take responsibility, and listen. The Mediation Center did begin by working juveniles, victim defender cases, and Kid Conflict. Cathy W. stated the Mediation and Restorative Justice Center holds training with agencies associated with United Way at no charge. Community members, not part of United Way, are charged a fee for training. Training is on conflict resolution and the mediation process. Continuing Education Credits or Continuing Education Units are earned. If issues are not resolved, they are referred to the next step, such as small claims court. Referrals are provided by the police, civil courts, case managers, landlords, etc.

**Review and Approval of February Minutes**

Troy Norman asked for changes or additions to the February Minutes. There was one change. Mike DeMares moved to approve with the change. Dennis Farrell seconded this motion. The minutes were approved with the change.

**Board Liaison Report**

Dennis Farrell stated the board heard the list of Unmet Needs from AODA and Children & Family Service Advisory Committees. Dennis said the Mental Health Advisory Committee will present on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Then, on April 22<sup>nd</sup> (at the Expo Center at 7:00 PM ) is the public hearing where concerned individuals or someone receiving a service are encouraged to speak on their own behalf. A meeting with the County Executive will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss findings of the presentations and the public hearing.

Mike DeMares passed out and reviewed a copy of the AODA Unmet Needs that AODA presented last week.

Dennis Farrell announced the board has two seats that are being challenged in the upcoming election and every two years the committee assignments are changed.

**Legislative Report**

Dennis Farrell stated nationally, the health care reform has reached a critical time. Unfortunately, those in the health field don't know what the future holds for them. The State of WI is still in session and the Parity Bill has not come up yet.

Mike DeMares told the committee that the State is considering removing 17-year-old individuals who have committed a serious crime from the adult court and put them back into the juvenile court system. The County would be required to pay for their incarceration. This was the procedure years ago. Because of the additional expense, many county constituencies are opposed and are working against it. Mike reminded the committee with the change in governor this election, the cabinet and policy makers will also change, including the Health and Human Services area.

Dennis Farrell said another newer issue with the State is the Sexual Predator Law. Currently, many communities have made resolutions where individuals arrested for sexual activities may not live in certain areas (schools, churches, playgrounds). The State of WI is trying to eliminate these local laws.

#### **CCS Coordinating Committee**

Diane Begos said the Community Recovery Services has been approved and the department name will change to the Treatment and Support Services Unit (TSSU). This will umbrella the old programs of Day Treatment. Quarterly meetings in Madison are scheduled for April 5, 2010 and October 4, 2010.

Diane Begos introduced Erin Hardy, LCSW, who is new to TSSU. Erin is half time with the 1915i program.

#### **COP Report**

Joan Sternweis stated the accounting for 2009 is due March 31, 2010. Fiscal is looking for unused COP funds so they may be applied to 2009. Mike DeMares explained that this committee will vote on these variances and if approved, they go onto the State of Wisconsin for final approval. There were two variance requests and Joan S. introduced Beth Hirsch with Child Services.

Beth Hirsch has a one time request for a back yard fence, for an autistic child who has a unique ability to escape the home. Area concerns include two busy roads and retention ponds. The family has tried additional methods to monitor the child. The request is for \$11,800. Approval has been received from the division and the town. Discussion followed the growing family needs, the need to continually watch the child and how the fence may assist the family. Dennis Farrell moved to approve this variance. Mary Madden seconded the motion. The variance was approved.

Joan Sternweis presented a variance request to apply an additional \$40,000.00 of 2009 COP funding to an individual with high services costs. This action would offset tax levy and allow the use of our County's remaining COP allocation.

Approval of the variance would waive the \$2100 per month funding cap and change the daily COP funding for this individual from around \$65.00/day to about \$175/day. Discussion followed on the needs of this recipient and the total current cost per day (\$271) for specialized AFH services. Mike DeMares discussed how funds that were remaining at the end of the year are reallocated through a detailed fiscal process. Final numbers are being reviewed. Diane Begos moved to approve this expense. Linda Cole seconded the motion. This variance was approved.

Joan Sternweis announced the COP Plan has been approved by the State. Joan said there are three candidates to become COP Consumers on the committee and asked if there will be a stipend associated for these members? Discussion followed; a minimum of one consumer member is needed, but having two available will ensure attendance. Stipends are provided for other meetings. Diane Begos recommended a flat rate of \$20.00 per meeting, no mileage. Dennis Farrell will take this to the board and report back. A vote will be taken in April.

#### **Unmet Needs – Mike DeMares**

Mike DeMares reviewed the Unmet Needs requests from February, which include continuing the 2010 array of services, emphasize the maintenance of funding to 2-1-1, a cost of living adjustment to residential providers, support, sustain and advance Peer Support Programming, expand respite care services to children with serious emotionally disturbed needs, and requesting the expansion of Clubhouse as it relates to providing a supportive employment staff member. Discussion followed on these items. Presentations will be given by 2-1-1, Clubhouse, and Peer Support. Mike D. will draw up the Unmet Needs list for the next meeting.

Mike added the hospital was doing well in terms of expense and revenue. The outpatient programs are doing well and a psychiatrist has shown interest for the half time psychiatrist position that is open. Should this happen, Dr. Kim will be transferred fully to the Outpatient Clinic and all areas would be fully covered. The increase of the outpatient psychiatry was an Unmet Need of 2009.

Mike said there was a meeting about the need for more vocational services at Clubhouse.

Dennis Farrell said St. Coletta's sent a letter to all families they serve to explain that they will begin to charge families for a "bed charge" (bed hold) after 14 days if left unused and 80% of the board. Discussion followed.

**Old Business –**

There was no old business.

**New Business –**

Mike DeMares told the committee about a tragic article in the Milwaukee Journal where a family was having difficulty finding placement and psychiatry services for an elderly family member with Alzheimer's. This man passed away a few days later. Mike commented Waukesha County is very fortunate to have a strong relationship with Waukesha Memorial who has a geriopsych unit and doctors who are admitted there through the emergency room. The Mental Health Center can accept geriopsych individuals, but the patients at MHC are younger with different needs. Dennis Farrell added the Advisory Committees are influential and very successful in Waukesha County and their influence contributed to this service.

Mike DeMares stated the State of WI has assigned the region of Walworth, Milwaukee, Jefferson, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, Dodge and Washington Counties has been awarded a grant for \$160,000 to be shared. It must be used directly toward crisis services. The group has decided on expansion of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Crisis Intervention Partners (CIP, for correctional officers and correctional staff). This training will be executed with the Sheriff's Department through NAMI of Milwaukee. Grant funds will not pay officers wages or their replacements wages. Mary Madden stated this training is available for hospital staff or school staff or anybody who may be the first point of crisis intervention as well.

**Other -**

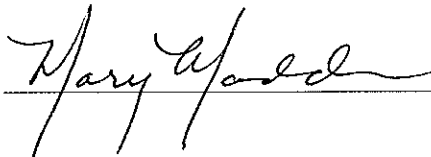
Next Meeting: April 19, 2010.

There was no other business. Dennis Farrell moved to adjourn. This was seconded by Mary Madden. The meeting ended at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Sylvester  
Recorder

Minutes were approved



Date

4/19/10

Cc: Susie Austin, Chair, AODA  
James Pearson, Chair of CAFSAC  
Sue Konkell, Chair, Public Health  
County Clerk, Waukesha County

